Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai: May I know what rent he wanted?

Mr. R. M. Statham: First he asked for Rs. 75 and then he demanded a higher rent than that.

Bifurcation in the Observatory Department.

55. * Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the date on which the bifurcation of the Observatory Department into Meteorological and Astronomical Sections was effected;

(*b*) whether there is a separate Government Astronomer attached to the Government of India Observatory at Poona;

(*c*) whether the Retrenchment Committee proposed the abolition of the place of the Government Astronomer in the Observatory; and

(*d*) what is the additional expenditure consequent upon the bifurcation?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) 1st Kanni 1103.

(*b*) Government have no information.

(*c*) No, but they recommended that the two branches may be put under the charge of a single officer.

(*d*) Rs. 500 a year.

Price of the clock kept in the Observatory.

56. * Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: Will the Government be pleased to state what is the price of the clock kept in the Observatory?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: The Government Astronomer reports there are three clocks in the Observatory. It is not clear to which clock the member refers.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: When were these clocks purchased?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: They were purchased years ago. I cannot give the exact year.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: How is the correct time now adjusted in the Observatory? Is it by star observation or by any other means?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: I have no information.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: The clocks in the Huzur Office and other places are adjusted with reference to clocks kept in the Observatory. The noon gun, the morning gun and the night gun also depend on the clock in the Observatory. I wanted to know how that time in the Observatory is adjusted. The

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question that has been answered is only a part of a big question which has been split up in a meaningless manner. If the other parts also were put in for answer, the whole thing could have been explained by the official member. That is why the official member now claims notice.

Purchase of a lathe for the Observatory.

57. ❋ **Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai**: Will the Government be pleased to furnish information on the following points :—

(*a*) whether they have purchased a lathe for use in the Observatory ; and, if so, when, at what cost and for what purpose ; and

(*b*) whether that machine is now (13-7-1934) being used for private job works ?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: (*a*) Yes. In Karkatakam 1103, for Rs 400 to turn screws and to make minor accessories for the instruments in the Observatory.

(*b*) No.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know from the member whether there is sufficient work for the lathe in that department ?

Rao Sahib Dr N. Kunjan Pillai: Yes.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know whether there is any lathe machine in the P. W. D. Workshop attached to the Chief Engineer's Office ?

Rao Sahib Dr. N Kunjan Pillai: There may be.

Mechanic employed in the Observatory.

58 ❋ **Mr. M N. Paramesvaran Pillai**: Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether there is a mechanic employed in the Observatory ;

(*b*) if so, what is his pay and whether he has full time work in the Observatory ; and

(*c*) whether he is undertaking private job and, if so, whether he has the sanction of Government for that ?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Rs. 20. Yes.

(*c*) No. The latter part of the question does not therefore arise.

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